

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): A method comprising:

transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;

transmitting audio with the access request; and

terminating the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.

2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes transmitting the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes transmitting the audio before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted.

4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes transmitting the audio without receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted.

5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the audio transmission serves as the access request.

6. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted during transmission of the audio.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the denial of the access request from an arbitration controller.

8. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the audio to the broadcast link via wireless network equipment.

9. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the denial of the access request from a wireless communication device in the system via a wireless base station.

10. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the denial of the access request within a wireless communication device that presently has access to the broadcast link.

11. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the access request in response to actuation of a push-to-talk input medium associated with a wireless communication device.

12. (Original): A method comprising:

receiving a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;

receiving audio with the access request; and

transmitting the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted.

13. (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising discarding the audio in the event the access request is denied.

14. (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein receiving audio includes receiving the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

15. (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting an indication that the access request is granted after receiving the audio.

16. (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting an indication that the access request is denied after receiving the audio.

17. (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising interpreting at least a portion of the audio transmission as the access request.

18. (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising:

transmitting the access request to a wireless communication device in the system; and
receiving an indication that the access request is denied from the wireless communication device.

19. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein transmitting the access request includes transmitting the access request to a wireless communication device that presently has access to the broadcast link.

20. (Original): A wireless communication device comprising:

a wireless transmitter; and
a processor that controls the transmitter to transmit a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system, transmit audio with the access request, and terminate the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.

21. (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter to transmit the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

22. (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter to transmit the audio before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted.

23. (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter to transmit the audio without receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted.

24. (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the audio transmission serves as the access request.

25. (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein the transmitter transmits the audio to the broadcast link via wireless network equipment.
26. (Original): An arbitration controller for a point-to-multipoint communication system, the arbitration controller comprising a processor that receives a request for access to a broadcast link from a wireless communication device in a point-to-multipoint communication system, wherein the wireless communication device transmits audio with the request for access, the processor determining whether to grant the access request, and directing transmission of the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted.
27. (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor directs discarding of the audio in the event the access request is denied.
28. (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor directs transmission of an indication that the access request is granted or denied.
29. (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the transmitter transmits an indication that the access request is granted or denied.
30. (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor interprets at least a portion of the audio transmission as the access request.
31. (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor resides within a wireless communication device in the point-to-multipoint communication system.
32. (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor resides within a network server in a wide area network associated with network equipment in the point-to-multipoint communication system.
33. (Original): A computer-readable medium carrying instructions that cause a processor in a wireless communication device in a point-to-multipoint communication system to:

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transmit a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;

transmit audio with the access request; and

terminate the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.

34. (Original): A computer-readable medium carrying instructions that cause a processor in network equipment in a point-to-multipoint communication system to:

receive a request for access to a broadcast link in the point-to-multipoint communication system;

receive audio with the access request; and

direct transmission of the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted.

35. (New): A method comprising:

transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system from a wireless communication device;

receiving audio from a user of the wireless communication device;

transmitting the audio from the wireless communication device before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted; and

terminating the audio transmission if a denial of the access request is received.

36. (New): The method of claim 35, wherein at least a portion of the audio transmission serves as the access request.